

For months the Democrats have taken to the floor of the House asking the Republican leadership to schedule this vote on behalf of hardworking Americans and their families.

And for the same number of months—the Republican leadership has refused. In some instances, even denying that working families trying to get by on \$4.25 an hour exist. Easy for them to say when you consider that since Speaker NEWT GINGRICH's April 17 promise to at least hold hearings on the minimum wage issue—34 days ago—he has received \$15,975.24 of the taxpayers' money.

Compare that to a minimum-wage worker who earns \$4.25 an hour, works 40 hours a week for 52 weeks and makes a grand total of \$8,840.00 for that entire year of hard work. In a month of dawdling, the Speaker has made almost twice as much as a minimum-wage worker makes in a whole year.

Let's pass a minimum wage increase now, it's exactly what over 80 percent of American want us to do. They understand that this is simply the right approach to take if we are going to honor work, protect families and fight for children.

THE ECONOMY IS GOOD?

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Look out, Mr. and Mrs. America. The President is selling his own personal brand of snake oil again. But guess what? Sometimes the President does not really mean what he says.

As recently as this weekend the President said he now supports welfare reform. Yes, welfare reform. He is back to that position. So far this year he has vetoed, as my colleagues know, changing welfare as we know it, not once, but twice. The President has simply surrounded this issue.

In fact, he switched his position so many times I am starting to get a bit dizzy.

Then he said this is, and again I quote, the healthiest economy in 30 years. If this is the healthiest economy in 30 years, then why does it lag behind all 4 years of the Carter administration? That is right. Remember the Carter years? The Carter economy grew 2½ times faster than the Clinton economy. No wonder everybody is worried. That does not sound like the healthiest economy in 30 years.

So I say, enough of the Clinton snake oil, enough of the flip-flops. Americans are no longer buying that line.

CONFUSION ABOUT WELFARE REFORM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, confused about where the President stands

on welfare reform? Well, the White House does not even know for sure. The Clinton administration is tripping all over its own rhetoric on welfare. I call it the politics of confusion.

Last Friday in a embargo briefing on the President's radio address, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, quote, the President in his address, or in this address, has signaled that he will look with favor on the Wisconsin welfare reform model. And the President did. Specifically he said, I quote, "Wisconsin submitted to me for approval the outlines of a sweeping welfare reform plan, one of the boldest yet attempted in America. All in all, Wisconsin has the makings of a solid, bold welfare reform plan. We should get it done." End quote.

Well, however, if my colleagues read the Washington Post this morning, the White House is waffling. We hear remarks such as we will have to negotiate the situation, details will have to be changed before the Federal Government approves the necessary waivers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that President Clinton should not be playing politics with the welfare proposal. We need welfare reform, we need it now. Let us get it done.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, talk is cheap; like many Americans are not confused about where our President stands because it seems that he changes his opinions dramatically during election years. In his radio address this past Saturday the President said, 4 years ago I challenged America to end welfare as we know it.

Of course 4 years ago President Clinton was campaigning to be President. Once President, Clinton waited 18 months to propose welfare reform that was rejected by his own Democratic Congress. In his address the President bragged that he has approved 38 waivers for State welfare reforms. However, in the last year the President has twice vetoed comprehensive bipartisan welfare reform that would have ended Washington's ability to veto State reforms.

There is no good reason why 50 State Governors should have to go on their hands and knees to get President Clinton's permission to implement welfare reforms for their own citizens.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEAGUE, SONNY BONO

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last Saturday afternoon I had the opportunity to address the California Contract

Cities Association convention in Palm Springs, and I would like to congratulate the outgoing president, Bea Lapisto-Kirtley, and the new president, Tom Breazeal.

But as I walked out of that meeting, I turned down the street, and I saw a crowd. And like any of us, we are rather curious when we see a crowd, and who did I see in the midst of that crowd but our colleague the gentleman from California, SONNY BONO, who was joined by his beautiful wife, Mary, their two little children and his 82-year-old mother, Jean Bono.

What was happening was the gentleman from California, SONNY BONO, was having his star status set in stone as he was having a star placed on Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs, California, and I would simply like to rise and inform my colleagues that we all knew that the gentleman from California, Mr. BONO, was a star, but now it is set in stone, and I want to congratulate him, and I know that every one of my colleagues will join in doing so.

PRESIDENT'S WELFARE STRATEGY LEADS A DOUBLE LIFE

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton and the Washington liberal groups are leading a double life. They claim that they want to end welfare as we know it, yet fight it and veto every plan we put forward.

They say they want to increase the earnings of working Americans, but yet they are pushing to hike the minimum wage, which kills low-wage jobs. To add injury to insult, they denounce tax relief for working families and job creation which would help accomplish both those goals.

Well, Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton's strategy undercuts both getting people off the welfare rolls and letting them keep more of what they earn. Studies show that hiking the minimum wage swells the welfare rolls. That is because increasing the minimum wage will cut out over 400,000 entry-level jobs, the very jobs needed to get people off of welfare in the first place.

If Bill Clinton truly cares about the working poor, he will end his double life. He will stop vetoing plans to spring people from the welfare trap, he will stop pushing the minimum wage, rusting the welfare trap shut, and he will certainly stop vetoing the tax relief that he himself has promised.

It is time for Bill Clinton to stop living a double life.

IT IS NOT COMPASSIONATE TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. CAMPBELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, what is the compassionate and caring approach to people who need jobs? It is to